

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The final Office Action of August 4, 2010, has been reviewed and the following remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 78, 79, 83, 87 and 94 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 60-77, 92 and 93 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 78-91 and 94 are pending upon entry of the present amendment. Entry of the amendments, reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 93 and 94.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 60-91 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Littig *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,524,276, "Littig") in view of Ishigami (U.S. Patent No. 6,625,445, "Ishigami") and Piosenka *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,926,756, "Piosenka").

Claim 92 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Littig in view of Ishigami and Piosenka and further in view of Burba *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,601,232, "Burba"). These rejections are traversed for the following reasons.

Independent claims 78, 83 and 87 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter previously recited in claims 92 and 93. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that, notwithstanding the propriety of the asserted rejections, claims 78, 83 and 87 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 93.

Claims 79-82 are dependent on claim 78, claims 84-86 are dependent on claim 83 and claims 89-91 and 94 are dependent on claim 87. Accordingly, claims 79-82, 84-86, 89-91 and 94 are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

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CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same. However, if for any reason the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance or there are any questions, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (202) 824-3156.

Respectfully submitted,

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